for principals, parents and teachers to emphasise the need for a more Child Centred Early Childhood Education Programme, NCERT has also brought out a document entitled 'Minimum specifications for pre-schools' and other resource material for teachers and children. Recommendations of the seminar and other material developed by NCERT have been distributed widely and sent to all States and Union Territories.

Setting up of Youth Development Centres

5099. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Governmet have decided to set up Youth Development Centres in rural parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of such centres and the objectives for which they are to be set up; and

(c) how many such Youth Development Centres are to be set up in Bihar with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) A new scheme of Youth Development Centres is under consideration of the Government.

(b) The objective of the Scheme is to provide an intermediate tier between the youth clubs at the village level and the Nehru Yuva Kendra at the District level. Youth Development Centres are expected to provide the rural Youth with opportunities for full participation in the developmental and recreational activties. There will be a Youth Development Centre for nearly 10 villages each. It is proposed that the scheme will be operated through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.

(c) Exact number of Youth Development centres in Bihar to be set up has not yet been decided.

Child marriage in Rajasthan

5100. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of child marriages is going on unabeted in Rajasthan despite it being a cognizable offence in terms of the Sharda Act; and

(b) whether in view of the State Government's utter ineffectiveness to tackle the situation, what steps Centre propose to take to put an end to this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SMT. BASAVARAJESWARI) :

(a) and (b) Government is aware of the fact that child marriages are still prevalent in certain parts of the country including Rajasthan. The practice of child marriage is deeply embedded amongst certain sections of society. The elimination of such deep rooted social maladies cannot only be the result of enforcement action, but is also dependent upon a range of other social and economic developmental inputs, like education, awareness generation social and economic empowerment. Government of India has attempted to generate awareness on such issues through various modes; in particular, camps are being organised under the Awareness Generation Programme implemented through non-Governmental organisations/institutions. Assistance is also being given for organising legal literacy programmes and other activities for creating awareness about women's status and rights. The State Government of Rajasthan has also taken a number of steps to eliminate this practice. An anti-child marraige campaign is launched every year to generate social awareness and for taking prompt legal action when report of solemnisation of such marriages are received.

Applications for B. Sc. Nursing Course in Sir S. S. L. Hospital Varanasi

5101. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications of nurses forwarded by the office of Medical Superintendent of Sir Sunder Lal Hospital, Varanasi for entrance to B. Sc. (Nursing) College of Nursing, Post-Graduate Insti-